

**VETERINARY MEDICAL BOARD**  
**Updated Anesthesia Requirements/RVT Job Tasks**  
**Effective May 20, 2007**

**2032.4. Anesthesia**

(a) General anesthesia is a condition caused by the administration of a drug or combination of drugs sufficient to produce a state of unconsciousness or dissociation and blocked response to a given pain or alarming stimulus.

(b) A veterinarian shall use appropriate and humane methods of anesthesia, analgesia and sedation to minimize pain and distress during any procedures and shall comply with the following standards:

(1) Within twelve (12) hours prior to the administration of a general anesthetic, the animal patient shall be given a physical examination by a licensed veterinarian. The results of the physical examination shall be noted in the animal patient's medical records.

(2) An animal under general anesthesia shall be observed for a length of time appropriate for its safe recovery.

(3) Provide a method of respiratory monitoring that may include observation of the animal's chest movements, observing the rebreathing bag, or respirometer.

(4) A method of cardiac monitoring shall be provided and may include the use of a stethoscope or electrocardiographic monitor.

(5) When administering anesthesia in a hospital setting, a veterinarian shall have resuscitation bags of appropriate volumes for the animal patient and an assortment of endotracheal tubes readily available.

**2034. Animal Health Care Tasks Definitions**

For purposes of the rules and regulations applicable to animal health care tasks for registered veterinary technicians and unregistered assistants, contained in the article, the term:

(a) "Veterinarian" means a California licensed veterinarian.

(b) "R.V.T." means a registered veterinary technician certified by the Board.

(c) "Unregistered assistant" means any individual who is not a R.V.T. or a licensed veterinarian.

(d) "Supervisor" means a California licensed veterinarian or if a job task so provides a R.V.T.

(e) "Direct Supervision" means: (1) the supervisor is physically present at the location where animal health care job tasks are to be performed and is quickly and easily available; and (2) the animal has been examined by a veterinarian at such time as good veterinary medical practice requires consistent with the particular delegated animal health care job task.

(f) "Indirect Supervision" means: (1) that the supervisor is not physically present at the location where animal health care job tasks are to be performed, but has given either written or oral instructions ("direct orders") for treatment of the animal patient; and (2) the animal has been examined by a veterinarian at such times as good veterinary medical practice requires, consistent with the particular delegated animal health care task and the animal is not anesthetized as defined in Section 2032.

(g) "Animal Hospital Setting" means all veterinary premises which are required by Section 4853 of the Code to be registered with the Board.

(h) "Administer" means the direct application of a drug or device to the body of an animal by injection, inhalation, ingestion, or other means.

(i) "Induce" means the initial administration of a drug with the intended purpose of rendering an animal unconscious.

**2036. Animal Hospital Health Care Tasks for R.V.T.**

(a) Unless specifically so provided by regulation, a R.V.T. shall not perform the following functions or any other activity which represents the practice of veterinary medicine or requires the knowledge, skill and training of a licensed veterinarian:

- (1) Surgery;
- (2) Diagnosis and prognosis of animal diseases;
- (3) Prescription of drugs, medicines or appliances.

(b) An R.V.T. may perform the following procedures only under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian:

- (1) Induce anesthesia;
- (2) Apply casts and splints;
- (3) Perform dental extractions;
- (4) Suture cutaneous and subcutaneous tissues, gingiva and oral mucous membranes,
- (5) Create a relief hole in the skin to facilitate placement of an intravascular catheter

(c) Subject to the provisions of subsection(s) (a), (b) and (c) of this section, an R.V.T. may perform animal health care tasks under the direct or indirect supervision of a licensed veterinarian. The degree of supervision by a licensed veterinarian over a R.V.T. shall be consistent with the standards of good veterinary medical practices.

**2036.5. Animal Hospital Health Care Tasks for Unregistered Assistants**

(a) Unregistered assistants shall be prohibited from performing any of the functions or activities specified in subsections (a) and (b) of Section 2036 of these regulations.

(b) Subject to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, unregistered assistants in an animal hospital setting may perform auxiliary animal health care tasks under the direct or indirect supervision of a licensed veterinarian or the direct supervision of an R.V.T. The degree of supervision by a licensed veterinarian over an unregistered assistant shall be higher than or equal to the degree of supervision required when an R.V.T. performs the same task and shall be consistent with standards of good veterinary medical practices.